

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 151235Z SEP 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6692
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 2468

PASS ASST. SECRETARY CARTER

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SF
SUBJECT: JOHANNESBURG EDITOR ON CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES AND US POLICY
REF:JOHANNESBURG 2439

1. TERTIUS MYBURGH, EDITOR OF SOUTH AFRICA'S LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER, SUNDAY TIMES, TOLD CONGEN SEPTEMBER 13 THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING PUBLISHING EDITORIAL UNDER HIS BY-LINE IN NEXT ISSUE URGING COLOREDS AND INDIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN SAG'S PROPOSED MULTI-PARLIAMENT SYSTEM. HE SAID HIS BULLISH APPROACH WAS BASED ON TWO PREMISES: (1) NEW PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE TO CONCEDE TO COLOREDS AND INDIANS ON SOME ISSUES SOME TIMES, ELSE THEY WOULD BUZZ OFF; AND (2) NEW SYSTEM REPRESENTED REAL (IF SMALL) CONCESSION ON PART OF NP AND AFRIKANERS WHICH CAME FROM HIGH-FORCEPS DELIVERY AND SHOULD BE CODDLED.

2. MYBURGH IS DETRIBALIZED AFRIKANER (UNLIKE ENGLISH-SPEAKER SPARKS OF RAND DAILY MAIL, SEE REFTTEL) AND IS BIT LESS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT NP FLEXIBILITY. HE THINKS PRESENT CONSTITUTIONAL PLAN MAY BE PREDICATED ON OPEN-END STRETCH, WITH POLI-
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TICAL DISPENSATION TO BLACKS TO FOLLOW.

3. ON SAG'S APPARENT ASSUMPTION THAT "FULL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION" (IN SA IDIOM, "ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE") REPRESENTS USG REQUIREMENT OF SA AND THAT USG UNINTERESTED IN WHITES' SURVIVAL. MYBURGH DISAGREES WITH SPARKS AND BELIEVES USG CAN STILL MAKE SUGGESTIONS OF MEANINGFUL CHANGE WHICH SA CAN CONSIDER AND ACCEPT.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO PERSUADE SAG TO COME OFF PRESENT NEGATIVE,
LAAGER-BOUND TACK. WHEN IN US IN TWO WEEKS TO ATTEND NEIMAN
FELLOWS REUNION AT HARVARD, MYBURGH HOPES HE MAY BE GRANTED
INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG, PUXBLICATION OF WHICH HE THINKS
COULD HAVE A SALUTARY EFFECT ON AFRIKANER THINKING IN SA.
HE HOPES TO SEE AND DISCUSS MATTER WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY
HODDING CARTER (NEIMAN CLASSMATE) AT REUNION. HE MAY ALSO PRO-
POSE INTERVIEW AT THAT TIME WITH PRESIDENT AND OR VICE PRESIDENT.
JOHNSON

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